

2001 and Historical Average Weekday Traffic Volumes

This interactive map shows **average annual weekday traffic (AAWDT)** volumes by link for major roadways in the four counties of Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance, Valencia and southern Santa Fe in the state of New Mexico. MRCOG performs traffic counts on all roads labeled collectors or higher in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Planning Area (AMPA) and Regional Planning Area (RPO) which covers the balance of the four counties outside of the metro area. The resulting traffic data is used to support various transportation planning activities and to publish annual Traffic Flow Maps of the Greater Albuquerque Area and outlying rural areas. These maps show the volume and distribution of traffic on the roadway network.

Most traffic counts are performed using portable traffic monitoring devices (“tube counters”) with rubber tubes that stretch across the roadway. MRCOG maintains a coverage schedule which lists all locations that are counted on a regular basis. Most roadway segments included on this coverage are counted once every three years, but river crossings are counted every year. This means that approximately 800 locations are counted per year, about three-quarters of which are in the AMPA with the balance being in the RPO part of the four-county area.

Tube counters are set out for a minimum of 48 hours per location. The data is then summarized and stored in 15-minute intervals. The resulting data files are processed with an in-house software, which performs quality control checks which allow staff to examine the distribution of traffic volumes over the course of a day as well as to compare it both numerically and graphically to past counts at the same location. The software also checks to make sure the counts meet the New Mexico State Traffic Monitoring Standards. These standards include the requirements that a minimum of 48 consecutive hours of count data should be collected, and that a traffic volume of zero must not occur for eight or more consecutive hours.

In addition to tube counts, MRCOG uses electronic inductance loops, installed by the New Mexico State Highway Department, to perform counts.

In order to make a count representative of the average volume on a roadway segment during a particular year, several adjustment factors are applied to the raw volume. The Monthly Adjustment Factor (MAF) is applied to eliminate any seasonal variation in count volumes; the Loop Correction factor (LCF) adjusts the count for the percentage of heavy commercial traffic in the area the count was taken; the Average Growth Factor (AGF) is applied to counts not taken during the current year.

For additional information about MRCOG’s Consolidated Traffic Counting Program or for more specific traffic count data, contact Sheila ter Bruggen by email at sterbruggen@mrcog-nm.org or by phone at (505) 247-1750.